

## Local context

### Local labour market

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has [published](#) the labour market overview for July. The release shows that there was decrease in the monthly unemployed claimants in June, although numbers are still above pre-Covid-19 crisis levels. The levels and rates remain above those recorded during the 2008-09 recession, although not currently at levels or rates seen in the early 1990's recession.

In the Hampshire County Council area, the ONS monthly claimant count decreased on the previous month from 36,605 (May) to 34,650 (June). The working age rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 4.2%, the highest rate since September 1994. The largest fall was in the 25-49 age group (-1,500) followed by 50+ (-645). However, the 16-24 age group, who are most vulnerable in recession, increased by 190 on the month.

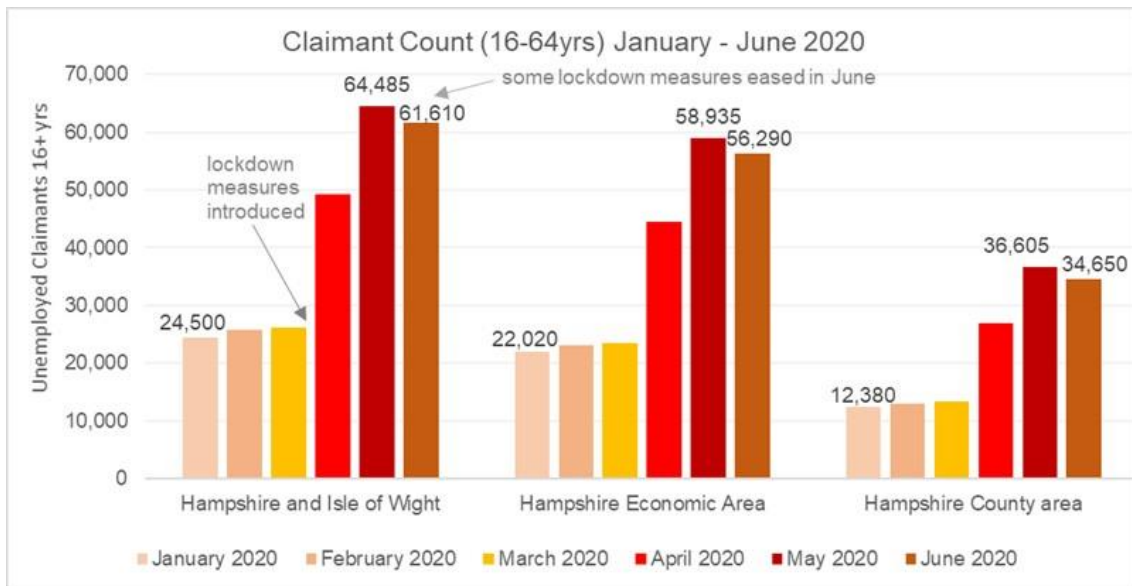
The comparable UK working age rate is 6.3%, and the South East region 5.1%. The whole Hampshire County Council area is below these averages at 4.2%. However, Portsmouth (6.9%), Southampton (6.8%), and the Isle of Wight (6.6%) are above both benchmarks. Looking at the data on a district level, Havant (6.1%) and Gosport (5.3%) are above the South East benchmarks, while Hart has the lowest rate at 3.1%.

To the end of June 2020, nearly 250,000 Hampshire residents have been helped by either the Government's job retention (CJRS) or self-employed income support (SEISS) schemes.

CJRS take-up rates to 30 June, suggest over one in four (28%) of Hampshire employees were furloughed - numbering 179,900. This is a lower take-up rate than the national average (30%) and marginally lower than the South East region (29%)

An estimated 74% of Hampshire's eligible self-employed people, numbering 69,100, have claimed SEISS as at 30 June. This take-up rate is marginally lower than the national average (75%) but in line with the South East region.

To read more about the local economy, business and labour market, please see the [Hampshire Economic and Business Intelligence Service webpage](#).



## Hampshire Covid-19 school travel support

The County Council's school travel planning team continue to support schools, parents and carers in the lead up to the full return to school in September. It is important that travel plans are consistent with, and support Covid safety measures including social distancing, as well as promoting green travel to create a reduction in traffic, congestion and pollution levels.

Active travel is a key tool to reduce the number of cars travelling to and from schools. Evidence shows that many families have been walking, cycling and scooting more throughout the Covid pandemic. Hampshire's My Journey team are able to offer support to schools to promote active travel and sustain momentum, where it's safe and possible to do so, through a range of resources and support such as journey planning, identifying 'Park and Stride' locations and providing resources to assist with scooting and cycle skills. For more information please see: <https://www.myjourneyhampshire.com/keepactive>

The County Council recognises that there may be some factors which prevent or discourage parents, carers and children from choosing active travel. Many of these can be addressed with the support of the County or District council, for example:

- Maintenance matters such as overgrown vegetation, damaged footpaths, potholes, blocked drains, broken or damaged street lights or signs can all be [reported online](#)
- Issues with dog fouling, broken glass, or fly tipping can be reported to the [local district council](#)
- To obtain signage and/or footway social distance markings, [advice and guidance is available](#)
- Physical temporary improvements/measures to enable social distancing on key routes to school, can be identified [online](#). All suggestions will be considered and prioritised by the County Council

To stay up to date with the latest support offered to schools by the My Journey Team, please [sign up to their newsletter](#).

# Hampshire Record Office

The County Council has [confirmed](#) that the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) will reopen from Tuesday 21 July. From this date, HRO will be open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 4pm, for booked visits and advance document requests only. A number of measures have been put in place for the safety of visitors and staff, for further information please see the [library and archives webpage](#).

## National context

### Prime Minister's Statement - 17 July

*“Hoping for the best, but planning for the worst”*

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, delivered a [statement on Covid-19](#). The Government confirmed that as the number of cases, hospital admissions and deaths falls, and the understanding and intelligence on the virus increases, restrictions can be eased further.

The Government [announced](#) the new framework for containing and controlling future outbreaks in England, which will enable national and local government to work closely together. From tomorrow, [local authorities will have new powers](#) in their areas to close specific premises or cancel events so they can respond quickly to local outbreaks. Next week, the Government will also publish draft regulations which set out how central government can intervene more effectively at a local level.

To effectively manage the additional challenge that winter will bring, the Government confirmed they are providing an additional £3 billion of funding to the NHS in England.

Changes to restrictions include:

- From today (17 July) – anybody may use public transport, but people will be encouraged to consider alternative means where available
- From 1 August –
  - Advice on going to work will be updated and the government will cease telling people to work from home, instead giving employers more discretion about how their staff can work safely
  - Reopen most remaining leisure settings (bowling, skating rinks and casinos) but nightclubs and children’s soft play centres are to remain closed
  - Enable all close contact services (beauticians) to resume
  - [Restart indoor performances](#) to a live, socially distanced audience
  - [Pilot larger gatherings in venues](#) like sports stadiums
  - Wedding receptions for up to 30 people to be allowed
- From October – the Government intends to allow audiences in stadiums and to allow conferences and other business events to recommence

The Government’s *Plan to rebuild* Covid-19 recovery roadmap has been [updated](#) with a [new chapter](#) added.

# Communities

## **Social impacts**

The Office for National Statistics has [published](#) the indicators from the *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey* covering the period 9 July to 12 July. The survey aims to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

Main points include:

- In the past seven days, 61% of adults who have left their home have worn a face covering (52% last week)
- 41% of adults had family or friends visit them in their home over the last week, for those aged over 70 years rises to 50%.
- 50% of working adults reported they had travelled to work in the past seven days (48% last week)
- 55% of adults reported always maintaining social distancing when meeting up with other people, 6% rarely or never maintained social distancing.

# Economy and business

## **Additional funding for councils**

The Government has confirmed funding allocations of £500 million additional funding for councils. The funding has been allocated based on population and levels of deprivation, and how the costs of delivery of services varies across the country. The Department for Education will use £6 million of the £500 million to provide targeted support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children to a small number of councils. The allocations have been published on the [emergency funding for local government page](#) – Hampshire County Council's allocation is **£7,642,297**.

## **Government financing targets**

The Treasury has [announced](#) a further revision to the UK Debt Management Office's (DMO's) financing remit for 2020-21, covering the September to November 2020 period.

# Children and education

## **Opportunity Areas programme**

The Department for Education (DfE) has [announced](#) how the expanded Opportunity Areas programme will address the impact of Covid-19, building on the successes across each of the 12 areas by 'twinning' them with places facing similar challenges to help unleash the potential among young people in other parts of the country. Funding allocations for each area have also been confirmed.

## **Support for universities**

The DfE has [announced](#) details of a new restructuring regime, specifically for higher education providers that could be at risk of insolvency. The scheme aims to support the role universities play in their local economies and preserve the country's science base.

### **Higher education reopening buildings**

The DfE has [updated](#) the guidance for higher education providers on when and how to reopen their campuses and buildings with new information on performing arts, transport and international students and self-isolation.

### **HPV vaccine and school closures**

The Department of Health and Social Care has [published](#) a statement by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to acknowledge that the 2019 to 2020 HPV vaccination programme has been disrupted due to Covid-19. The priority of the programme is now for all eligible children to receive at least the first dose of the HPV vaccine.

## **Adults' social care and public health**

### **Local outbreaks**

The Department of Health and Social Care has [issued](#) a framework for local authorities and local decision-makers on containing and managing Covid-19 outbreaks at a local level.

### **Leicester**

The Government has [announced](#) that measures implemented in Leicester to impose a local lockdown are proving successful, although the latest data shows that the infection rate is still higher than the national average. From 24 July the restrictions on schools and early years childcare will be removed and the Government will take a more targeted approach to the restrictions on non-essential retail. Other restrictions, including on travel, the hospitality sector and social gatherings will remain in force. The restrictions will be reviewed again in a fortnight.

### **Lasting Power of Attorney**

The Office of the Public Guardian has [confirmed](#) that the new digital 'Use a lasting power of attorney' tool will allow those acting as an attorney to make decisions more easily and faster. The new system has been tested by various stakeholders, who aim to use it to maintain services to their customers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Supporting people with learning disabilities and autism**

The Department of Health and Social Care has [confirmed](#) £74 million funding over three years for councils to accelerate the discharge of patients with learning disabilities or autism (or both) from mental health hospitals into the community. The funding can be spent on costs associated with discharge, including establishing community teams, funding accommodation and staff training.

### **Infection survey pilot**

The Office for National Statistics has [published](#) the initial data from the Covid-19 Infection Survey. The survey is being delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford, the University of Manchester and Public Health England.

### **Shielding clinically extremely vulnerable people**

An [updated version](#) of the shielding guidance document was sent to council chief executives on 15 July. The document follows on from the announcement on the 22 June in which the government set out the relaxation of advice for those shielding.

The document is intended for councils, Local Resilience Forums and other local delivery partners only.

### **Randox test kits**

The Department of Health and Social Care [issued](#) a statement highlighting that some test kits produced by Randox laboratories may not meet DHSC's required safety standards. Therefore, as a precautionary measure they are requesting that all settings pause the use of Randox test kits with immediate effect and until further notice.

### Second wave

The Academy of Medical Sciences has [published](#) a new report titled, *Preparing for a challenging winter*. The report, which was commissioned by Sir Patrick Vallance, warns about the potential for a second wave of Covid-19 infections and deaths over the winter period.

## National Covid-19 data

### Latest R number range

The R number range for the UK is 0.7-0.9 and the growth rate range is -5% to -1% per day as of 17 July 2020. The data is available to [view online](#).

### Cases

As of 4pm on 16 July, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **292,552**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **642**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **45,119**, with **66** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

## Additional links

- Hampshire County Council webpages on coronavirus (including links to press releases): <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- FAQ from the Cabinet Office: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
- PPE guidance hub: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- Guidance for local government: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- County Councils Network (CCN) coronavirus information pages: <https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus-information-for-local-authorities/>
- Local Government Association (LGA) councillor guidance: <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance>

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